

## DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

JANUARY 8, 2002

6:30 P.M.

### 1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Board members present were Chair Julie Aitken, Vice-Chair Jason Hurley and Hilda Testa (arrived at 6:43 p.m.). Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Barbara Spiece was absent.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: October 23, 2001

Ms. Testa made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Hurley, to approve the minutes of October 23, 2001. In a voice vote, with Ms. Spiece being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

### 3. DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Outcome of 12-34(B) Issue

Chair Aitken informed the Board that Section 12-34(B) had passed unanimously at the second Council reading and was no longer an issue. Ms. Testa asked if a new section had been added simultaneously with Chair Aitken responding affirmatively. Chair Aitken advised that if a farm did not have the agricultural classification, there was a process involved for the administrative determination, and the established criteria were taken from the Broward County ordinances. She referred to a recent incident where a neighbor's farm was "red tagged" by the Town's Code Compliance Division, although Section 12-34(B) had been removed from the Davie Code. She indicated that in light of occurrences of that nature, it was important that a guide be established to educate residents of their rights.

#### 3.2 Progress in Rural Preservation – Workshop/Staff's continuing Direction

This item was discussed later in the meeting.

#### 3.3 Board's New Goals for Encouraging Agriculture in Davie and Distributing Information Helpful to Farms in the Community and Surrounding Areas

Chair Aitken indicated that one of the new goals of the Board should be to write a guide for Davie farmers. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the types of information that should be placed in this guide, including a step-by-step process pertaining to the laws. Chair Aitken added that the purpose of the Board was the preservation and encouragement of agriculture. She explained that the purpose of the guide would be to encourage potential farmers, to have all relevant information that applied to farms listed in one place for easy access, and to have this become an official booklet for the Town. The Board presented various ideas for distribution of the booklet including placing a notice in the Davie Update.

Ms. Testa inquired about the deadline to apply for an agricultural classification which Chair Aitken responded was March 1st.

3.2 Chair Aitken advised that the main focus of the first rural preservation workshop was about defining Council's interpretation of rural and semi-rural. She commended Planner III Marcie Nolan for an excellent presentation.

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There was a lengthy discussion regarding the definition of rural and semi-rural and the inclusion of different areas in the zoning in progress. Chair Aitken indicated that Council was in favor of the zoning in progress. Ms. Testa asked whether or not the zoning in progress would be Town wide, and if it had been placed on Council agenda. Chair Aitken responded negatively.

Vice-Chair Hurley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Testa, that due to the interest at the last workshop, the Davie Agricultural Advisory Board was requesting an item be placed on the Council Agenda for Council to consider expanding the zoning in progress to cover all the areas of Davie with a future land use of R-1 as requested by residents east of Nob Hill. All voted in favor. **(Motion carried 3-0)**

Plans for an upcoming rural preservation workshop were discussed and Chair Aitken stressed the importance of Board members attendance.

Chair Aitken commented that she had received many calls from areas outside of Davie as well as Broward and other counties on issues similar to those affecting Davie farmers. She expressed the opinion that the Board, with its knowledge of farm issues, compile a newsletter with Davie Codes and State laws that applied to farms. These newsletters could be distributed as a public service to Broward and to the other counties. Chair Aitken advised that there could be no interpretation of the State law in this newsletter and it should be a legal document. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding distribution of the newsletter to realtors who advertised equestrian properties, as well as distribution through the Farm Bureau.

The Board briefly discussed items for the next agenda as well as items to be placed in the guide.

Chair Aitken inquired if Board members were interested in serving on the Board for another year, as Council was in the process of reappointing members. All the Board members present expressed interest in serving on the Board for another term. There was a brief discussion concerning changing the meetings to the fourth Tuesday of each month. The Board agreed.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

#### **5. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

#### **6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

Chair Aitken referred to the compilation of ideas by the Board for the proposed farmers' guide. She indicated that she would compile the information in her possession for distribution to Board members for their review, thus enabling them to be prepared at the next meeting.

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**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business and no objections, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member

